THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir;

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of (a) above;

(d) and (e) Under Section 9 of the Marine Products Export Development Authority Act 1972, MPEDA has been empowered to undertake a slew of activities related to promotion of marine exports including the regulation of deep sea fishing and registration of fishing vessels. Among the steps being taken in pursuance of the above mentioned mandate are extending financial assistance to the seafood processing industry, promoting aquaculture in all maritime States, value addition, upgrading of the processing facilities, giving wide publicity to Indian marine products on a global scale, conversion of existing fishing vessels to tuna long liners; trainings for technologists, processors, fish handlers, boat crew, fishermen etc.

Centres for agri-perishables for exports

1072. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has identified 12 locations for setting up of centres for handling agri-perishables for exports at an estimated cost of Rs. 2500 crores;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that besides this the Ministry has announced the development of six spice parks across the country for various spices; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) A study on Infrastructure Development instituted by APEDA has recommended setting up of 12 Centres for handling agro perishables for Exports at an estimated cost of Rs. 2500 crores.

(b) The Spices Board has proposed setting up of six spice parks in the major spice growing centers of the country.

(c) (i) Details of Centres for Handling Agro Perishables for Exports are:

Sl. No.	Location of CPC	State
1	Chandigarh	Punjab
2	Rai	Haryana
3	Agra	Uttar Pradesh
4	Muzafarpur	Bihar
5	Kolkatta	West Bengal
6	Guwahati	Meghalya
7	One each at Mumbai, Nashik, Pune & Nagpur	Maharashtra
8	Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh
9	Dharmapuri	Tamil Nadu

(ii) Details of the six spice parks:

Sl. No	District & State	Name of the spice
1	Chhindwara, Madhya Pradesh	dehydrated garlic and green chilli extract
2	Idukki, Kerala	cardamom and pepper
3	Erode, Tamilnadu	turmeric
4	Guntur, Andhra Pradesh	chillies
5	Barabanki, Uttar Pradesh	mint and mint products
6	Kota/Jalore, Rajasthan	coriander, cumin, fennel and fenugreek

Failure of AEZs

1073. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that six years after their inception not even one of the 60 approved Agri-Export Zones(AEZs), precursors to today's dedicated export zones, has taken off as per the Ministry's plans;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the review by the Ministry last year has revealed that the zones had missed their export targets and investments were only half of the originally estimated Rs. 1,700 crore and not a single zone is active; and

(c) if so, whether Government have tried to investigate to find out reasons for failure of AEZs and the action proposed to make them a success?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The AEZ, have shown mixed result. Some of the AEZ, have done well while others have not. These AEZs have crystallized an investment of Rs. 866.40 crore and exports of Rs. 5649.14 crore over the last five years against an envisaged investment of Rs. 1717. 95 crore and export of Rs. 11821.47 crore.

(c) A peer evaluation of the AEZs was carried out with a view to ascertain the reasons for shortfall in their performance and to suggest a remedial action plan. The review revealed that the AEZ were not able to make headway, mainly, owing to lack of:

(i) proactive push either by the State Government or by the Central Government or by their agencies to implement schemes in the AEZs;

(ii) project orientation in their conceptual design;

(iii) awareness amongst the field functionaries about the concept of AEZs ;

(iv) effective agency to coordinate with other implementing agencies and monitor the performance of the AEZs; and